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11th plenary meeting
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New York

President: Mr. Lykketoft ..... (Denmark)

The meeting was called to order at 3 p.m.

High-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly

Agenda items 15 and 116 (*continued*)

Integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic, social and related fields

Follow-up to the outcome of the Millennium Summit

United Nations Summit for the adoption of the post-2015 development agenda

Co-Chair Rasmussen: The Assembly will now hear an address by the President of the United States of America.

Mr. Barack Obama, President of the United States of America, was escorted to the rostrum.

Mr. Obama: Good afternoon. It is a great honour to be here to address the topic of sustainable development. In many of our nations, especially the developed countries, there is among our general population a genuine compassion towards those in need. There is a recognition of the grinding poverty that so many experience every day around the world. And yet sometimes it is said that our efforts to combat poverty and disease do not and cannot work, that there are some places beyond hope and that certain people and regions are condemned to an endless cycle of suffering. Here, today, we put those myths to rest.

Today we set aside the scepticism and lift up the hope that is available to us through collective action. Because the world came together in an unprecedented effort, the global hunger rate has already been slashed. Tens of millions more boys and girls are today in school. The prevention and treatment of measles, malaria and tuberculosis have saved nearly 60 million lives. HIV/AIDS infections and deaths have plummeted. And more than 1 billion people have lifted themselves up from extreme poverty— 1 billion! The entire world can take enormous pride in those historic achievements. Let the sceptics and cynics know: development works. Investing in public health works. We can break the cycle of poverty. People and nations can rise into prosperity.

Despite the cruelties of our world and the ravages of disease, millions of lives can be saved if we are focused and if we work together. Cynicism is our enemy. A belief in the capacity and dignity of every individual and recognition that each of us can play a small part in lifting up people all around the world — that is the message that we are sending here today. Because of the work of so many who are assembled here today, we can point to past success; yet we are also here today because we understand that our work is nowhere near done. We can take pride in what we have accomplished, but we cannot be complacent.

When 11 boys and girls die every single minute from preventable causes, we know we have more work to do. When hundreds of women die every single day just from having a baby, we know we have more work to do. When tens of millions of children are still not in school, when hundreds of millions of people have no

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clean water and no toilets, we have so much more to do. Right now, some 800 million men, women and children are scraping by on less than $1.25 a day. Imagine that. Gripped by the ache of an empty stomach, billions of our fellow human beings are at risk of dying from diseases that we know how to prevent. Many children are just one mosquito bite away from death. That is a moral outrage and a profound injustice. It is literally a matter of life and death, and now the world must act. We cannot leave people behind.

And so today we commit ourselves to new Sustainable Development Goals (resolution 70/1), including our goal of ending extreme poverty in our world. We do so understanding how difficult the task may be. We suffer no illusions of the challenges ahead, but we understand that this is something we must commit ourselves to, because in doing so we recognize that our most basic bond, our common humanity, compels us to act. An impoverished child in a distant slum or in a neighbourhood not that far from here is just as equal, just as worthy, as any of our children, as any of us, as any Head of Government or leader in this great Hall.

We reaffirm that supporting development is not charity, but is instead one of the smartest investments we can make in our own future. After all, it is the lack of development, when people have no education and no jobs and no hope, when they feel that their basic human dignity is being violated, that helps to fuel so much of the tension, the conflict and the instability in our world. I profoundly believe that many of the conflicts, the refugee crises and the military interventions over the years might have been avoided if nations had truly invested in the lives of their people and if the wealthiest nations on Earth were better partners in working with those who are trying to lift themselves up.

As one of the founders of the United Nations, Ralph Bunche, once said,

> "Peace is no mere matter of men fighting or not fighting. Peace, to have meaning ... must be translated into bread or rice, shelter, health and education."

I am here to say that in that work, the United States will continue to be the partner of the United Nations. Five years ago, I pledged here (see A/65/PV.11) that America would remain the global leader in development, and the United States Government has in fact remained the single largest donor of development assistance, including in global health. In times of crisis, from Ebola to Syria, we have been the largest provider of humanitarian aid. In times of disaster and crisis, the world can count on the friendship and generosity of the American people.

The question before us, though, as an international community, is how do we meet the new goals that we have set today. How can we do our work better? How can we stretch our resources and our funding more effectively? How can donor countries be smarter, and recipient countries do more with what they receive? We have to learn from the past, to see where we succeeded, so that we can duplicate that success and understand where we have fallen short and correct those shortcomings. We start by understanding that the next chapter of development cannot fall victim to the old divides between developed nations and developing ones. Poverty and growing inequality exist in all of our nations, and all of our nations have work to do. That includes us here in the United States. That is why, in the wake of a terrible recession, my Administration has worked to keep millions of families from falling into poverty. That is why we have brought quality, affordable health care to more than 17 million Americans. Here in this country, the wealthiest nation on Earth, we are still working every day to perfect our union, to be more equal and more just, and to treat the most vulnerable members of our society with value and concern.

That is why today I am committing the United States to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. As long as I am President, and well after I am done being President, I will keep fighting for the education, housing, health care and jobs that reduce inequality and create opportunity here in the United States and around the world, because that is not just the job of politicians; it is work for all of us.

The next chapter of development cannot just be about what Governments spend. We have to get to work to harness the unprecedented resources of our interconnected world. In just a few short years, in the areas of health, food security and energy, my Administration has committed and helped to mobilize more than $100 billion to promote development and save lives. Guided by the new consensus we reached in Addis Ababa, I am calling on others to join us. More Governments, more institutions, more businesses, more philanthropies, more non-governmental organizations, more faith communities, more citizens — all of us must step up with the will and resources and coordination

we need to achieve our goals. This must be the work of the world.

At the same time, the next chapter of development must focus not simply on the dollars we spend, but on the results we achieve. That demands new technologies and approaches, accountability, data and behavioural science — an understanding that there are lessons that we have learned and best practices for how people actually live, so that we can dramatically improve outcomes. It means breaking cycles of dependence by helping people become more self-sufficient: not just giving people fish, but teaching them how to fish. That is the purpose of development.

Rather than just sending food during famine — although we have to do that to avert starvation — we also have to bring new techniques, seeds and technologies to more farmers, so that they can boost their yields and increase their incomes, feed more people and lift countless millions out of poverty. Rather than just responding to outbreaks like Ebola — although we have to do that, and we have done so — let us also strengthen public-health systems and advance global health security, so as to prevent epidemics in the first place. As more countries take ownership of their HIV/AIDS programmes, the United States is setting two bold new goals. Over the next two years, we will increase the number of people that our funding reaches, so that nearly 13 million people with HIV/AIDS can get lifesaving treatment. We will invest $300 million to help achieve a 40 per cent reduction in new HIV infections among young women and girls in the hardest-hit areas of sub-Saharan Africa. And I believe we can do that in order to produce a first AIDS-free generation.

The next chapter of development must also unleash economic growth, not just for a few at the top, but inclusive, sustainable growth that lifts up the fortunes of the many. We know the ingredients for creating jobs and opportunity. They are not a secret. Let us embrace reforms that attract trade and investment to areas that are in need of investment and trade. Let us trade and build more together, making it easier for developing countries to sell more of their goods around the world. Let us invest in our greatest resource, our people, and their education and skills. Let us invest in innovative entrepreneurs, the striving young people who embrace new technology and are starting businesses; they can ignite new industries that will change the world. I have met young people on every continent, and they can lead the way if we give them the tools they need.

Our new development goals are ambitious. But thanks to the good work of many of the people in this Hall, they are achievable if we work together and meet our responsibilities to each other. I believe that. The progress of recent years gives us hope. We know what works. We know how to do this. But these days — perhaps because this is now my seventh year of addressing the General Assembly — I tend to be more blunt. Along with the increasingly gray hair, I am becoming more likely to speak my mind. I would like to be indulged when I say that we will never achieve our goals if we do not squarely confront several insidious threats to the dignity and well-being of people around the world. No matter how much hard work is done by development agencies, no matter how large the donations and commitments made by donor countries, if we do not take care of some of the other elements of development, we will not meet the goals that we have set.

Number one, development is threatened by bad governance. Today, we affirm what we know to be true from decades of experience: development and economic growth that are truly sustainable and inclusive depend on Governments and institutions that care about their people, that are accountable and respect human rights and deliver justice for everybody, not just for some. In the face of the corruption that siphons billions away from schools, hospitals and infrastructure into foreign bank accounts, Governments must embrace transparency, openness and the rule of law. Combating illicit finance must be a global effort, because it is part of our development effort. Citizens and civil society groups must be free to organize, speak their minds and work for progress, because that is how countries develop; that is how countries succeed.

Development is also threatened by inequality. That is a political debate that we are having in this country. I therefore want to be clear that it is not something to which the United States is immune. Every country has to grapple with that issue. The wealthiest and most powerful in our societies oftentimes like to keep things as they are, and they often have disproportionate political influence. Inequality is when poor children are more likely to get sick and die than children in wealthier neighbourhoods, just across town; when rural families are more likely to go without clean water; when ethnic and religious minorities, people with

disabilities or people of different sexual orientations are discriminated against or are unable to access education and opportunity. Inequality holds all of us back. Therefore, in all of our countries, we have to invest in interventions that allow us to reach more people, because no one should be left behind just because of where they live or what they look like.

Development is threatened by old attitudes, especially those that deny rights and opportunity to women. In too many places, girls are less likely to be in school than boys. Globally, women are less likely to have a job than men and are more likely to live in poverty. I have said that before and I will keep repeating it: one of the best indicators of whether a country will succeed is how it treats its women. When women have an education and when women have jobs, their children are more likely to get an education and their families are healthier and more prosperous. Their communities and countries do better, as well. Every nation, all of our nations, must invest in the education, health and skills of our women and girls.

I have to say that I do not have patience for the excuse: "Well, we have our own ways of doing things". I — we — understand that there is a long tradition in every society of discriminating against women. But that is not an excuse for not taking a new path aimed at making sure that everyone in a society has opportunity.

Development is threatened if we do not recognize the incredible dynamism and opportunity of today's Africa. Hundreds of millions of Africans still struggle in the face of grinding poverty, deadly disease and daily assaults on their lives and dignity. However, I visited Africa recently, and what I saw gave me hope and should, I know, give everyone here hope, because that continent has made impressive gains in health and education. It is one of the fastest-growing regions of the world, with a rising middle class.

During my travels, Africans, especially young Africans, told me they did not want just aid, they want trade. They want businesses. They want investment. I call on the world to join us as we mobilize billions of dollars in new trade, investment and development in Africa. That includes Power Africa, our initiative aimed at bringing electricity and greater opportunity to more than 60 million African homes and businesses. If we get Africa to fulfil its full potential, that will help the entire global economy. Everyone here will be helped. It is not a zero-sum game. We are invested in their success.

Development is also threatened by war. That should be a simple proposition, but it bears repeating. It is no coincidence that half of the people living in extreme poverty around the world live in places afflicted by chronic violence and conflict. Today, some 60 million men, women and children have been forced from their homes, many by conflicts in the Middle East and in Africa. Those are humanitarian crises and refugees that we cannot ignore, and we have to deliver the urgent aid that is needed right now. Those countries that can must do more to accommodate refugees, recognizing that those children are just like ours. But our efforts must be matched by the hard work of diplomacy and reconciliation to end conflicts that so often tear societies apart. As I said earlier, war and conflict are more likely to arise where we have bad governance, high inequality, discrimination against minority and ethnic groups, and low educational levels. Those things are all related.

Finally, development is threatened by climate change. I want to thank the Secretary-General for the extraordinary leadership and work that he has done on that issue. All of our countries will be affected by a changing climate. But the world's poorest people will bear the heaviest burden — from rising seas and more intense droughts to shortages of water and food. We will be seeing climate-change refugees. As His Holiness Pope Francis has rightly implored the world, the issue represents a moral calling.

In just two months, the world will have an opportunity to unite around a strong global climate agreement, for which we are going to be converging in Paris. With President Hollande's leadership and the leadership of every world leader, we need to establish the tools and financing to help developing nations embrace clean energy, adapt to climate change and protect themselves against the false choice between economic development and the best practices that can save our planet. We can take joint action and at the same time. The communities and lives of billions of people depend on the work that we do.

Future generations of young people, watching today and tomorrow, will judge us, based on the choices that we will make in the months and years ahead. One of those young people is Eva Tolage. Eva lives in a village in Tanzania. She is 15 years of age, and she wrote me

a letter. Some of those here today know that I read 10 letters a day, mostly from inside the United States, but sometimes from around the world. I actually get 40,000 a day, but I read 10.

Eva told me about her parents, farmers who are struggling to provide for their seven children. This young, 15-year-old girl — a girl of the same age as my daughters — dreams of going to college, but, with little food to eat, she explained, it is hard for her sometimes to concentrate in school. She explained that her house does not have electricity, so it is hard for her to study at night.

That is not because her parents do not love her and do not have ambitions for her. Her father works incredibly hard in the fields in order to pay for her education. But they just need a little help. "I will not let him down. I will do whatever it takes", she wrote in her letter. And then, knowing that we would be gathered at this Summit to help lift up families like hers, she asked me a question that could be asked of all of our nations: What will they commit to doing? What will they do?

There are billions of boys and girls just like Eva. They are just like our children. They have as much talent and as much hope for the future. And they're willing to work hard, and their parents love them just as much as we love ours. Just by the accident of birth, it is so much more difficult for them to achieve their dreams as it is for our children. But in the eyes of God, they are the same children. They are just as important.

For Eva and all those just trying to survive another day under conditions that many of us can barely imagine, it can sometimes seem as if the world is blind to their struggles and their dreams. Today, I say to Eva and the hundreds of millions, billions, like her: "We see you. We hear you." We have read their letters. We commit ourselves as nations, as one world, to the urgent work that must be done, to standing with families like Eva's as they work and strive for a better life, to ending the injustice of extreme poverty, to upholding the inherent dignity of every human being, whatever it takes. We cannot let them down. With the Assembly's help, we will not.

Co-Chair Rasmussen: I thank the President of the United States of America for his statement, strong commitment and leadership.

Mr. Barack Obama, President of the United States of America, was escorted from the rostrum.

Co-Chair Museveni: The Assembly will now hear an address by the President of the Republic of Paraguay.

Mr. Horacio Manuel Cartes Jara, President of the Republic of Paraguay, was escorted to the rostrum.

President Cartes Jara (*spoke in Spanish*): The adoption of the post-2015 development agenda (resolution 70/1) represents the beginning of an ambitious road map for countries in their fight against poverty, with the aim of improving the quality of life of their inhabitants, particularly those who live in vulnerable situations.

One of our Government's public-policy priorities has been the fight against poverty. We have made progress towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals, which were adopted in 2000. Since the adoption of those international commitments, we have managed, with effort and perseverance, to reduce by more than 50 per cent the proportion of the population living in extreme poverty. However, we will continue to push forward and focus our efforts on rural areas where the differences are even greater.

Our main goal as a Government is to ensure food security for our population in order to completely eradicate malnutrition. Paraguay has taken decisive steps to guarantee nutritional requirements, relying on family agriculture, and to increase the necessary nutrition that girls and boys receive in order to ensure excellent school performance and a healthy life. In that respect, we have become one of the leading countries in the region, according to the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO). With the adoption of a recent law on school nutrition and sanitary control, we have effected significant changes in public policies, such as the establishment of nutrition-oriented benefits and the promotion of family agriculture through simplified procurement. The total State investment in the school food programme has risen to $95 million, providing breakfasts and afternoon snacks to 90 per cent of the student body and school lunches to 15 per cent. We are creating new awareness in our population, mainly among children. An example of that is the drawing by a young eighth-grade student, Lucas Javier Armua, that I am sharing with the Assembly; Lucas was the Paraguayan winner of the regional contest "Feeding the world and caring for the Earth", organized by FAO.

We are aware that there is a direct link between education and development. In that context, we have achieved the universalization and consolidation of

primary-school education, and our country will soon achieve the goal of 100 per cent full coverage. In 2014, youth literacy rates were already above 98 per cent, and in that sense, we are just one step from universal literacy, with equity for gender, area of residence and economic condition. Significant progress can also be observed in the school enrolment and the reduction in the gender gap. In that connection, I would like to point out the increase in women's participation from 8 to 17 per cent in the national leadership within the past 15 years.

With regard to under-5 child mortality, by maintaining the downward trend in recent periods, we will achieve the goals we have set for ourselves. By the end of 2013, assisted birth deliveries in health service centres increased to 96.2 per cent on average at the country level. Since June 2014, our Government, with the support of UNICEF, has been carrying out a project for zero preventable deaths. In that context, maternal deaths were reduced by 33.6 per cent, and neonatal deaths were reduced to 2 per cent in the first year of our work through the ongoing training of public-health staff.

We are pleased to announce that Paraguay has achieved the Millennium Development Goals related to access to systems of drinking water supply and sanitation.

The Paraguayan financial system has been strengthened in recent years and now maintains adequate solvency and capitalization ratios. There has been a gradual increase in the access to credit for small farmers. The success of Paraguay's monetary policies has resulted in the lowest levels of inflation in Latin America. That factor, among others, allows Paraguay to have one of the fastest growing gross domestic products in the region. According to a 2014 Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean report, Paraguay ranks second among Latin American countries in terms of the return on direct foreign investment.

Meeting the Millennium Development Goals has contributed to the improved living conditions enjoyed by the inhabitants of our country and our future generations. We know that we still have much to do, but it is good to see that we are heading in the right direction. Today, our Government would like to affirm our commitment to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (resolution 70/1) with the primary objective of ensuring the welfare of the entire population.

Solidarity and international cooperation are essential if all nations of the world are to achieve harmonious, peaceful, respectful, fair and inclusive coexistence. We know that the Sustainable Development Goals, adopted at this Summit, are ambitious and pose a challenge to the international community. But if we achieve adequate consensus at the international, regional and national political levels, the Goals are fully achievable. The implementation and permanence of public policies, as well as the allocation of sufficient resources in a rational and timely manner, are essential. In that context, we must work to achieve an effective investment of public funds by establishing transparent implementation and accountability mechanisms.

We must not ignore the fervent cry of our Mother Earth to preserve the environment. Climate change is a global issue and a central challenge to all Governments and inhabitants of the world.

The Republic of Paraguay welcomes the holding of this Sustainable Development Summit, which coincides with the seventieth anniversary of the United Nations. One of the key points in the 2030 Agenda deals with the case of countries confronting special conditions. In that regard, the international community has pledged to take concrete actions to overcome the obstacles facing land-locked developing countries. The Agenda will be transformative for those countries to the extent that their specific needs and challenges are incorporated into the programmes of work of the relevant international organizations, international financial institutions and, not least, those of the transit countries. We are also convinced that new possibilities can emerge from the difficulties we are facing — particularly in the areas of infrastructure, logistics and integration. It also pleases me to mention that at the General Assembly of the Organization of American States, held in my country in 2014, members approved the Asunción declaration on development with social inclusion, which is currently being implemented.

The Government of Paraguay is committed to implementing the new post-2015 Sustainable Development Agenda and will comply with its procedures for monitoring and review at the national, regional and global levels, which will help it to be inclusive, transparent, rigorous and based on reliable and timely information. It is in times of great

challenges that we need to embrace more than ever our fundamental values and principles and never forget that the raison d'être of Governments must be the dignity of the people, enshrining their well-belling as the ultimate goal of all of our efforts. In that process, we honour our people and pave the way for generations to come.

Co-Chair Rasmussen: I thank the President of the Republic of Paraguay for his statement.

Mr. Horacio Manuel Cartes Jara, President of the Republic of Paraguay was escorted from the rostrum.

Co-Chair Rasmussen: The Assembly will now hear an address by the President of the French Republic.

Mr. François Hollande, President of the French Republic, was escorted to the rostrum.

Mr. Hollande (*spoke in French*): What the international community has done today in adopting the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (resolution A/70/1) is undoubtedly one of the most decisive acts in the history of the United Nations, for we have made a commitment to future generations to set the fight against poverty, human development and protecting the planet as our one indivisible goal. The road to the adoption of the new Agenda has been a long one. Twenty-eight years ago, the World Commission on Environment and Development entrusted Ms. Gro Harlem Brundtland with the preparation of a report entitled "Our Common Future", and with it, sustainable development first became an issue. Five years later, we held the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development in Rio de Janeiro, which proclaimed the commitments that the world was supposed to undertake but that, unfortunately, were not, for too long, backed up by actions.

It has therefore taken 28 years for us to finally adopt together, here and now, the Sustainable Development Goals. It has taken 28 years for this notion of sustainable development to take shape in the form of a concrete and universal road map, with goals and targets. It has taken 28 years of perseverance to end the divisions that sometimes arise among us, to overcome our lack of foresight and our narrow self-interest and to ensure that as 193 nations, we — from all corners of the Earth — can arrive at consensus on these Goals. I would like to commend not only the United Nations, but also the States, the Governments and, especially, the non-governmental organizations and civil-society organizations that contributed to that awakening. They exerted the necessary pressure in order for us to reach this point. Instead of furnishing proclamations, declarations and mantras, they have provided us with Goals contained within an Agenda and a road map.

What is at stake is the fight against inequalities on a global scale. In 2015, 1 billion human beings continue to live on less than $1 a day. In the world, one in nine people suffer from hunger, and 250 million children — undoubtedly even more than that — do not know how to read or write. Entire regions are suffering not only from the effects of desertification but also from disease, which has led to an ever-increasing number of refugees, and that at a time when we are already talking a great deal about refugees, because of their great number coming from the Middle East or Africa and entering into Europe.

I would like to recall today what for many representatives is self-evident: 80 per cent of refugees — whether they are refugees because of climate change, war or hunger — are being received in the countries of the South. The South is showing its solidarity with the South. Frequently, the countries with the fewest resources are the ones who are accommodating the poorest refugees. That is the reason that we have to act, why we have to decide. The adoption of the Sustainable Development Goals is not simply a question of wanting to live better; for many, those who are affected by poverty or climate change, the stakes are higher: life or death. What we have decided does not concern quality of life issues but life itself. That is why the 2030 Agenda is a monumental response to what is for us ultimately the main issue at stake for the cohesion of our planet. We have chosen 17 Goals, but there are three indivisible priorities. The first priority concerns the protection of the climate, which will be the central theme at the Conference of the Parties in Paris that France has undertaken the responsibility of hosting.

I had lunch with the main Heads of State and Government of the largest continents. We wanted to determine whether or not an agreement on climate change was possible. There was no Head of State or Government who said that he was against an agreement. I could swiftly conclude, therefore, that we are sure to meet with success. That is not just my opinion alone. An agreement is always possible. The question being put to us is, what kind of agreement? How far-reaching should it be? How many commitments should it contain?

In Paris, we will not be signing a text simply because we were not able to do so in Copenhagen in 2009. No, the text we sign in Paris will be one that we will honour for decades to come. It will be an agreement affecting all countries in various situations. It will be legally binding and ensure that regularly every five years we will be able to evaluate and measure what has or has not been achieved. The aim is to prevent the planet from heating up by more than 2°C by the end of the century. For many countries, if the planet warms by more than 2°C, it will not just be a target that has not been achieved or a Goal that has been missed. No, it will quite simply mean that the countries we refer to as small island developing States will disappear by the end of the century. For many other countries, it will mean that desertification and deforestation will continue, and their people will, as a result, not be able to live as they do today.

It is for that reason that, in Paris, we will need to make commitments through contributions. I call on all countries to make their contributions, so that we can bring together all of the commitments and ensure that there is an increase of only 2°C by the end of the century. We will need to ensure that a decision is taken on establishing a carbon tax and that all economic stakeholders adapt their behaviour and their investments in line with the tax. We will also need to address the issue of financing, and that is a major issue. Are we, as developed countries, simply feeling remorse about the way in which we have used our natural resources? Are we trying to ensure that developing countries do not suffer the same disastrous fate? Or rather, are we going to raise funding in order to allow some countries to skip a step, ensure their energy transition, adapt their technology and make a technological leap forward? That would help them achieve more growth at home and contribute fewer greenhouse gas emissions across the planet.

We are familiar with the figures. They were established in Copenhagen in 2009. We need to find $100 billion a year to ensure that the necessary changes occur and that we set that goal as part of our development policy. I would urge each country to exert as much pressure as possible, so that, in Paris, and at the annual meetings of the World Bank Group and the International Monetary Fund in Lima next month, we can achieve the target of $100 billion to ensure energy transition and combat global warming. As we set that objective as a priority, it must, at the same time, be consistent and compatible with combatting poverty. The fight against hunger, disease and difficult access to water and natural resources is part of the same fight. The funding for energy transition and the financing that we mobilize during the Paris Conference will also enable us to combat poverty and take action to promote growth and development.

I also know that we will have to take specific actions to combat AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis. France is ranked as the world's second largest health-care donor, of which it is very proud. During the Ebola outbreak, when Liberia, Sierra Leone and Guinea were affected by the disease, it was because of international action and humanitarian organizations that we were able to eliminate that scourge and, today, we can be proud of and commend those countries that made the efforts needed to make that a reality. Ebola has been vanquished in Sierra Leone, Liberia and Guinea. We are therefore able to act and we must act.

The third fight for us is also linked to the previous ones. We do not just want to live on a planet whose temperature is no longer rising. We do not just want there to be fewer inequalities. We want human beings to enjoy their rights. We want women to be able to contribute to wealth creation, we want fundamental freedoms to be recognized, we want the fight against corruption to be undertaken and conflicts to be resolved.

All of those desires are outlined in the Sustainable Development Goals. We are not just talking about reducing inequalities. We are talking about living differently in this world. In order to implement those policies, I have already said that we will need resources. I mentioned the financing needed to combat climate change, but just because we are going to do more in the area of climate financing does not mean that we should do less for development financing. That, too, is extremely important. At this session of the General Assembly, we reached an agreement on the Sustainable Development Goals. The Paris Conference on Climate Change will soon be held. They are both linked, one to another, but one does not replace the other. That is why we need to increase official development assistance.

Today, we will ask all those who accept the idea of the Sustainable Development Goals and the new Agenda to increase their development contributions. France always wants to lead the way and set the example, even if that may be demanding at times. France will host the Conference on Climate Change, and it will also call for

the highest of standards to be met. It is for that reason that we have decided to earmark €4 billion more for official development assistance from 2020 onwards.

I have also decided to carry out a far-reaching reform of our official development assistance programme with the French Development Agency and the Caisse des Dépôts, a large French financial institution. We will have the largest development bank in Europe, so that we can honour our commitments and not just quote figures that are never respected. We, too, in France, along with the other countries in the Eurozone, have sought to establish a tax on financial transactions. That tax should be introduced at the beginning of 2017. We will do our utmost to ensure that that occurs. A percentage of the tax will be earmarked for combatting inequalities, global warming and large-scale pandemics. That is a commitment I am making before the Assembly today.

We know our enemies. They are known as indifference, carelessness and indolence. They can also be referred to as passive acceptance. There is the idea that there will always be a miracle solution; that the international community will always come to an agrement; that there will be a piece of technology or an invention that will keep us from having to shoulder our responsibilities. No, it is going to be men and women who decide their future and their destiny. Today, after 28 years, we have managed to agree to adopt the Sustainable Development Goals and an Agenda for them. My duty, in December, is to ensure that we can all agree on how to combat climate change and guarantee life on our planet for years to come.

Co-Chair Rasmussen: I thank the President of the French Republic for his statement.

Mr. François Hollande, President of the French Republic, was escorted from the rostrum.

Co-Chair Museveni: The Assembly will now hear an address by the President of Costa Rica.

Mr. Luis Guillermo Solís Rivera, President of the Republic of Costa Rica, was escorted to the rostrum.

President Solís Rivera (*spoke in Spanish*): It is with great enthusiasm that I have come to this historic Summit to adopt the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (resolution 70/1). I represent a nation that, for many years, has worked tirelessly to achieve the dream of becoming a sustainable society The goals that we are committing to today are grand and ambitious, as they should be. We should dream big and aim high. I am convinced that the decisions we have taken today, and others that we will take in the future, have the potential to turn many of our dreams — the dreams of the Assembly — into realities. As we are on the cusp of implementing this Agenda, I would like to highlight some of the achievements as well as the challenges that still remain for us in Costa Rica.

The fight for equality in Costa Rica dates back to the beginning of the nineteenth century. That dream began to become a reality in 1847, when girls and boys were assured the right of access to our free education system. In 1950, for the first time, women exercised their right to vote in our country, and my predecessor, Laura Chinchilla Miranda, became the first female President of Costa Rica. Moreover, only a few weeks ago, an illustrious former Costa Rican Judge of the International Criminal Court, Ms. Elizabeth Odio, was elected to the presidency of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights. Currently, Costa Rica is leading efforts on behalf of those who believe the time has come for a woman to fill the position of Secretary-General.

With this Agenda, we reaffirm that the philosophy of "Yes we can!" and commit ourselves to providing equal access for women and girls to inclusive, equitable and quality education, economic resources and political participation and to the same opportunities as men with respect to employment, leadership and decision-making at every level. We are convinced that the shared social responsibility of men and women constitutes an essential step in empowering women.

Our commitment to technology also dates back to the nineteenth century. In 1884, two years after electricity lit up New York City, San José, our capital, followed suit. In 1940, the Costa Rican Institute of Electricity was founded, and since then it has developed a wide range of sources of renewable energy. Today, the same utility connects over 99 per cent of the national territory to the grid and ensures a dependable supply of electricity at competitive prices in the region.

For more than 200 days, with very few exceptions, Costa Rica has been generating all of its electric power without producing any hydrocarbons. In that regard, we have realized the mantra "Yes we can!", and we now renew our commitment to universal access, based on principles of solidarity, to an affordable, reliable and sustainable energy supply.

Achieving sustainability is therefore not a rhetorical exercise in my country, nor need it be in the rest of the world. In 2002, the first moratorium on oil drilling was announced in Costa Rica. My Government has extended it to 2021.

Today, we are also taking measures to renew our commitment to becoming a carbon-neutral country by 2021. We understand that sustainability covers a broad range of activities, including public transportation, organic and sustainable agriculture and ecotourism, which has been one of my country's main achievements.

We have also decided that "Yes, we can!" will apply to one of the biggest challenges of the 2030 Agenda, which is ensuring sustainable consumption and production patterns.

We say "Yes we can!" in relation to promoting peaceful, just and inclusive societies, free from fear and violence. The 2030 Agenda clearly states in its preamble: "There can be no sustainable development without peace and no peace without sustainable development".

I would like to take this opportunity to reflect on how we will implement the 2030 Agenda. We in Costa Rica, as we have said here many times before, believe that disarmament is a mechanism that allows us to redirect significant resources to sustainable development. Betting on disarmament is synonymous with betting on peace and a culture of peace and non-violence. The equivalent of $1.776 trillion was spent worldwide on military spending in 2014. The five permanent members of the Security Council are among the top six countries in terms of military spending, and they are the largest producers and exporters of weapons in the world. We call on them as brothers — but we also call on them categorically — to redirect that spending towards sustainable development. I assure them that there is no better way of ensuring the safety of their own countries than by ensuring the sustainable development of the whole world.

Costa Rica is enthusiastically preparing for the national implementation of the 2030 Agenda by incorporating it into our national planning at all levels. To fulfil the need for coordination, we are relying on the National Council on Sustainable Development, which in its institutional management has a fluent relationship with public and private stakeholders. We have studied and learned from the experiences and best practices of other countries in this field.

Costa Rica is a middle-income country, as are many others represented here, and as such have realized that, despite our many advances in various strategic areas, we have not been able to move forward as fast as necessary or in all the areas that would ensure the well-being of our entire population. I reiterate my country's appeal for the Organization to make progress in establishing an action plan for cooperation with middle-income countries. Over 70 per cent of the people living in poverty in the world live in what are inappropriately called middle-income countries — a designation that serves as an excuse for other States to stop cooperating with them — where the challenge of inequality continues and poor income distribution is the first issue to be addressed. We therefore call for better internal coordination and the necessary institutional framework within the United Nations to support our efforts.

Costa Rica also calls for the development of an index to measure the multidimensional nature of poverty, one that includes criteria beyond per capita income. The global challenge to end poverty in all its forms requires the proper instruments, and Costa Rica is committed to their design and implementation. The need for them was supported by various delegations a short while ago, in a high-level meeting organized by my country.

Those proposals for means of implementation should flow from the agreements already reached at the third International Conference on Financing for Development. They should be central pillars for future discussions and should serve in particular as the basis for the strong commitments on climate change that I hope we will make in Paris in December. I would like to congratulate President François Hollande on his leadership in that process, and I welcome President Barack Obama's decision to attend in Paris, after bravely launching his ambitious clean energy plan in August. It is our responsibility to arrive at a major, rigorous agreement in Paris that will genuinely force the world to focus its efforts once and for all on the conservation and preservation of our species. That is crucial and cannot be put off.

Costa Rica has marked out a pathway in which disarmament is critical to achieving sustainable development. On 1 December 1948, the day the Costa Rican army was abolished, the founder of our Second Republic, José Figueres Ferrer, said,

> "To the home of Washington, Lincoln, Bolívar and Martí, today we say: Oh, America, other peoples, who are your children too, offer you their greatness. Little Costa Rica, now and forever, offers you its heart and its love of civility and democracy."

Sixty-seven years later, as we mark the seventieth anniversary of the founding of the United Nations and make our commitment to the 2030 Agenda, little Costa Rica would now like, once again, to offer, this time to the whole world, its heart, its love and its commitment to democracy and freedom as a sustainable model that fosters solidarity, education, inclusivity, transparency, justice and peace.

Co-Chair Museveni: I thank the President of Costa Rica for his statement.

Mr. Luis Guillermo Solís Rivera, President of the Republic of Costa Rica, was escorted from the rostrum.

Co-Chair Museveni: The Assembly will now hear an address by the President of the Republic of Ghana.

Mr. John Dramani Mahama, President of the Republic of Ghana, was escorted to the rostrum.

President Mahama: I bring the Assembly warm greetings from the good people of Ghana, undoubtedly the world's friendliest country.

The adoption on Friday of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (resolution 70/1), which includes 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), is a major re-dedication of the world to its commitment to fighting the growing inequality, wiping out extreme poverty and tackling the issues of climate change over the next 15 years. The adoption of the new Goals at a moment when the United Nations is turning 70 can provide some hope to the young people of the world that, after decades of existence, the Organization is still alive to the challenges of today.

What we have adopted and now refer to simply as the SDGs is perhaps the most ambitious transformational development agenda attempted in the history of the United Nations. We must tackle the challenges identified in the 17 Goals as a matter of urgency, and we can also seize the opportunity offered by the adoption of the SDGs to tackle the unfinished business of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

In pursuing the SDGs, it is important that we define a new paradigm of development. The current high consumption of the wasteful societies that we classify as developed cannot serve as the model for sustainable development. If the attractions of the big cities of the so-called developed world, such as shopping malls bursting at the seams with all kinds of consumer goods, glitzy neon lighting and fast food franchises, represent the standard for classification as developed, we will need two more planets the size of our Earth to maintain and sustain the human race. The world's resources are not infinite. If we are to attain the objective of a sustainable consumption and production pattern, as provided for under Goal 12, we will have to review the relationship between labour, production and capital.

The path to sustainable development for Ghana and many other African countries has been a difficult one. In the main, we are still producers of primary commodities, while secondary and tertiary processing is done in the developed world and finished goods are exported back to us. If the teeming youth of Africa are to find jobs at home and stop attempting the dangerous crossing of the Mediterranean to enter the greener pastures of Europe, we must review the role that Africa plays in world production. A significant portion of processing and value addition must relocate to our continent.

I stand here at the United Nations and commit to the people of Ghana that I will continue to aggressively and dynamically implement our country's agenda for transformation within the framework of the newly adopted SDGs, in order to build a life of dignity that ensures that no one is left behind. Through the implementation of the agenda for transformation developed by our national development planning commission, we aim to diversify production and exports, be more competitive in international markets, increase the productivity of all our resource inputs and upgrade technologies so as to make our much-anticipated leap out of poverty.

The African Union's Agenda 2063 makes a strong case for integrating our economies on the continent so as to accelerate the pace of transformative change. In order to achieve that, we have to invest in our human capital through education and health care, accelerate infrastructure development so as to link the African economies and address inequalities, while building meaningful relationships with the private sector. A focus on Goals 2 and 7 of the SDGs will provide Africa with the impetus needed to ensure economic growth and transformation.

The "green revolution" has never really taken off in Africa. And yet Africa has a significant proportion of the world's remaining arable lands. With improved seeds, fertilizers, appropriate technology and agricultural extension advice, we can not only increase agricultural productivity in Africa, we can also provide jobs for the growing population of young people on the continent. That would also fit perfectly with the expansion of agricultural processing and agribusiness, in which Africa has a comparative advantage.

The focus on access to sustainable and modern energy in Goal 7 emphasizes the situation in Africa today, where a shortage of power remains a binding constraint on our economic development. As an example, I can cite Ghana, where two decades of consistent positive economic growth have led to an average annual increase in the demand for power of between 10 and 12 per cent. As a result, the demand for electricity has exceeded the supply. To keep our system running, we have had to resort to implementing a load management system. Ghanaians, with their sense of humour, refer to it as *dumso*, which in our local language means "off and on". We have put in place a programme to introduce emergency generation into the transmission system, but we are mindful that we must ensure that we use as many clean energy sources as possible if we are to benefit current and future generations.

The MDGs have been helpful for us. Over the past 15 years they have helped us address socioeconomic inequalities and disparities in national, regional and global development. Since September 2000, the MDGs have always been a core part of Ghana's national development framework. That has helped us make modest but significant progress in the achievement of those Goals. Ghana is, therefore, well positioned and poised to pursue the SDGs in the post-2015 development era.

As one of Africa's fastest growing economies, Ghana's rise to middle-income status has presented us with both opportunities and daunting challenges. With the inspiration and guidance of the SDGs, we are confident of our ability to surmount those trials. We have a vision and a development agenda for the next 15 years and, on behalf of the Government and people of Ghana, I pledge our support and commitment to work towards the achievement of the SDGs and look forward to working with other regional and global partners to make them a reality.

Our world is well endowed with resources and can ensure that every man, woman, child, and every person with a disability or aged person, can live a happy, fulfilled and secure life of hope and promise and not one of poverty and disillusionment. The time for collective action for the progress we all yearn for is now. The implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals will transform our world. And Ghana is committed to their implementation.

Co-Chair Museveni: I thank the President of Ghana for his statement.

Mr. John Dramani Mahama, President of the Republic of Ghana, was escorted from the rostrum.

Co-Chair Museveni: The Assembly will now hear an address by the President of the United Mexican States.

Mr. Enrique Peña Nieto, President of the United Mexican States, was escorted to the rostrum.

President Peña Nieto (*spoke in Spanish*): What better way to celebrate the seventieth anniversary of the Organization of the United Nations than by renewing the hope of a future of opportunities for all of the countries of the world? Mexico celebrates the adoption of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda (resolution 70/1), a historic agreement for humanity in support of social inclusion, shared prosperity, environmental protection, respect for human rights and universal peace. The 17 Sustainable Development Goals and 169 targets of the Agenda reflect the will and commitment of nations to address the complex social, economic and environmental challenges of our time.

It is clear that there are no easy solutions or shortcuts for solving the problems of humanity. The positive and lasting changes that are so vital for our present world can be achieved only with responsibility, perseverance and shared work. That is precisely the essence of the 2030 Agenda, namely, to constitute a serious, far-reaching global alliance based on the values and hopes that gave rise to the Organization of the United Nations. This transcendent document is the fruit of an inclusive, constructive and transparent dialogue that gives new life to multilateralism as a transformative force for our civilization.

It has been a great honour for Mexico to take part in the consultative forums and, of course, in the final negotiation on the new Agenda. With pride and satisfaction, my country commends the inclusion

in Agenda 2030 of a number of proposals that we put forward: first, the establishment of social and economic inclusion as the guiding principle for the new Sustainable Development Goals; secondly, the adoption of a broader definition of poverty, based on a multidimensional focus that, in addition to counting individual incomes, also takes into account people's effective access to fundamental rights such as food, education, health, social security and basic housing services; thirdly, the consideration of gender equality and women's empowerment as cross-cutting factors for development; fourthly, the recognition of the rights of migrants and their positive contribution to the development of their countries, both their countries of origin and their countries of destination; and fifthly, the inclusion of the preservation of biodiversity and the adoption of national commitments to address climate change as key instruments for sustainable development. In keeping with that responsibility, Mexico will host, in 2016, the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity. Sixthly, the rule of law must be recognized as an indispensable requirement for development.

From this point on, with respect to the definition of the 2030 Agenda, it is up to individual countries to implement the public policies that will allow them to fulfil their Goals and targets. In that regard, Mexico urges all countries to take ownership of the principles that characterize the new paradigm of open government. That, indeed, is what we will propose in the Open Government Summit, which will take place in my country a month from now.

The international community has succeeded in agreeing on Agenda 2030. The challenge now is to achieve its effective implementation. Although the Agenda itself is universal, its full implementation depends on national strategies. With that understanding, Mexico regards Agenda 2030 as a State commitment and as a collective mission. By joining our efforts, will and resources, we will meet its Goals and targets and be able to positively transform the lives of millions of Mexicans, and by so doing, we will also contribute to universal development.

Co-Chair Museveni: I thank the President of Mexico for his statement.

Mr. Enrique Peña Nieto, President of the United Mexican States, was escorted from the rostrum.

Co-Chair Museveni: The Assembly will now hear an address by the President of the Republic of Lithuania.

Mrs. Dalia Grybauskaitė, President of the Republic of Lithuania, was escorted to the rostrum.

President Grybauskaitė: The year 2015 is a crucial one for sustainable development. We are very satisfied with the successful conclusion of the negotiations on the new 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (resolution 70/1), which is a transformative and, most importantly, a people-centred document. I hope it will make a lasting impact on our future. The effective implementation of that ambitious Agenda is of central importance. Let me highlight several key issues that are essential for achieving our goals.

First of all, we must focus on ensuring peace and security. Without peace, we will not be able to build resilient societies, eradicate the causes of poverty or meet the expectations of the international community.

Secondly, the essential building block of a prosperous society is democracy. The lack of democracy is the main reason for conflicts, social and military upheavals, economic hardship and other problems. Today, the continuous threat to the development of our Eastern European partners, in particular Ukraine, worries us. The support of the international community, voiced by the United Nations, is needed by those calling for freedom and self-determination worldwide. Democracy and the rule of law should be guaranteed to everyone.

One of the Goals of the 2030 Agenda, our new development agenda, is gender equality, but women are still suffering from basic violence. Therefore, the first step is to guarantee their safety. The second step is to ensure gender equality through national programmes and proper accountability. Strong political commitment on the part of all actors at all levels is crucial in that respect. Furthermore, the international community has to engage more deeply in providing support for building inclusive institutions of good governance.

In order to achieve our long-term Sustainable Development Goals, we also have to react to new issues that arise. For example, the issue of immigration is a challenge that requires the attention of all members of the international community. The effective use of development cooperation can create a strong force for managing immigration flows and addressing the root causes of sudden migration. It is our moral duty

to provide a safe haven for those striving but unable to find peace, freedom and democracy in their own countries. There is no doubt that the success of the new Agenda for Sustainable Development depends on how we identify and mobilize all necessary means for implementation.

The final essential issue that has to be addressed is related to responsibility. There can be no opting out. Global partnership means global responsibility. For the next 15 years, sustainable development and cooperation must be built on ensuring peace and security, guaranteeing human rights, including the rights of women and children, gender equality, supporting democracy, and the building of inclusive institutions of good governance.

To conclude, we must not forget that only by joining the efforts of the international community as a whole can we attain effective sustainable development, which is the goal we would like to achieve.

Co-Chair Museveni: I thank the President of the Republic of Lithuania for her statement.

Ms. Dalia Grybauskaitė, President of the Republic of Lithuania, was escorted from the rostrum.

Co-Chair Museveni: The Assembly will now hear an address by the President of Montenegro.

Mr. Filip Vujanović, President of Montenegro, was escorted to the rostrum.

President Vujanović (*spoke in Montenegrin; translation provided by the delegation*): It is my great honour to address the General Assembly at this Summit, which represents a historic milestone in the work of the United Nations. At the outset, I would like to express my gratitude to the Permanent Representatives of Ireland and Kenya, the facilitators of the intergovernmental negotiations process that resulted in the harmonization of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (resolution 70/1). We believe that the new Agenda, covering the next 15 years, will enable us to fulfil the projected vision aimed at ensuring sustainable development and human dignity for all.

The year 2015 is crucial for the future work of this Organization. It is also the year in which we mark the seventieth anniversary of the founding of the United Nations. I believe that there is no better time to consider what has been achieved so far in all areas of activity of the United Nations. Moreover, we can be satisfied with the progress achieved in the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals and with the harmonization of the ambitious and comprehensive, but also realistic, 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Montenegro strongly supports the adoption of the new post-2015 development agenda. We confirm our commitment to implementing it completely. An extremely demanding task of implementation, monitoring and review of the progress achieved is before us. We believe that in fulfilling that task we need to follow the basic principles of inclusiveness, empowerment, transparency and respect for human rights. We have advocated for the creation of a transformative agenda based on the principle of respect for human rights and believe that the universal respect for human rights will be the measure of our success in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

We commend the central role played by the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development, which will follow up on and review the implementation of new Agenda at the global level. The Sustainable Development Goals that have been set raise a wide range of interrelated issues and challenges. We are of the opinion that each country is responsible for its own social and economic development. National strategies for sustainable development should, therefore, be based on the approach that the production of goods and services is crucial to improving the material and spiritual well-being of the population and requires sustainable management of the four basic groups of national resources, namely, human, social, natural and economic resources.

Key national resources must remain viable so that we can preserve the right to development for each next generation. The right to development should be seen in relation to humankind, relevant social groups at the national and local levels, and families, along with family values. In essence, sustainability requires that we undertake consistent political actions focused on the development of human resources, on stimulating investments focused on those objectives and on preventing decisions that diminish national resources.

National strategies for sustainable development supported by integrated national financial frameworks operating in the international economic environment must be strengthened through effective mechanisms.

Therefore, in the process of their development and implementation and in the establishment of a framework for monitoring and accountability, close cooperation with all stakeholders is necessary at all levels, including in parliaments, the civilian and business sectors and academia. An inclusive approach is a prerequisite for the success of the implementation of our future development agenda.

We believe that the implementation of the new post-2015 development agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals, as reflected in the final document adopted at this Summit, must be achieved as part of a revitalized global partnership for sustainable development and supported by specific policies and actions, as identified in the Addis Ababa Action Agenda on financing for development, which should serve as an integral part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Montenegro's commitment to a policy of sustainable development cannot be questioned. Its strategic development policy and guidelines touch upon all dimensions of socioeconomic development. Throughout the past two decades, Montenegro has maintained its Constitutional decision to consider itself an ecological State and has exerted the political will, dedication, persistence, courage and substantial financial investment to bring that about. That approach was particularly significant in helping us to overcome the negative trends that emerged during the transition period and later during the global economic crisis. Although we have faced numerous challenges, we in Montenegro have consistently worked to make our socioeconomic development more sustainable and preserve our natural resources for future generations. Montenegro was one of the first countries in South-Eastern Europe to established a strategic and institutional framework for sustainable development in accordance with the standards of the developed countries of the European Union.

Guided by our own experience in implementing sustainable development policies and through our membership in the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals and our participation in the intergovernmental negotiations, we have made a significant contribution towards the consensus reached on a transformative, universal and comprehensive agenda that integrates the social, economic and environmental aspects of sustainable development. We are pleased that many of our priorities have been included in the new Agenda. As a result, the fulfilment of the vision of the 2030 Agenda will require substantial efforts in the areas of eradicating poverty and inequality and creating peaceful, just and inclusive societies based on the rule of law and good governance at every level.

Conscious of the importance of implementing the 2030 Agenda, we are already in the process of drafting a new national post-2015 sustainable development strategy that will incorporate the Sustainable Development Goals and harmonize them with our national framework. Through our policies, which are to be based on our post-2015 Sustainable Development Goals, we will encourage the participation of individuals, families and social groups, while at the same time ensuring the sustainable and integrated conservation of our human, social, natural and economic resources.

This Summit on the post-2015 development agenda was preceded by the third International Conference on Financing for Development held in Addis Ababa, at which we adopted the outcome document establishing a financial framework for sustainable development. The new Agenda provides us with strong momentum for intensifying our efforts at the end of 2015 to adopt, in Paris, a comprehensive, ambitious and legally binding agreement on climate change that is applicable to all countries. We believe that by year's end we will have reached an agreement on climate change that will be another acknowledgement of the responsibility and willingness of all countries and stakeholders to meet their obligations under a new chapter in the history of development. In that regard, Montenegro is ready to support a strengthened global climate agreement by reducing its national greenhouse-gas emissions by 2030 by 30 per cent compared to their 1990 levels.

The post-2015 development agenda gives us the hope that we can build a peaceful and prosperous world. We all share responsibility for its implementation. We are the generation that can and must make every effort to fulfil the vision of our 2030 Agenda.

Co-Chair Museveni: I thank the President of Montenegro for his statement.

Mr. Filip Vujanović, President of Montenegro, was escorted from the rostrum.

Co-Chair Museveni: The Assembly will now hear a statement by the Prime Minister of Solomon Islands.

Mr. Manasseh Sogavare, Prime Minister of Solomon Islands, was escorted to the rostrum.

Mr. Sogavare (Solomon Islands): The Solomon Islands welcomes the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (resolution 70/1). The new Agenda is about people and seeks to pursue prosperity through partnerships, while operating within safe levels of our planet's capacity. We are committed to implementing the 17 transformative Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and their 169 targets within our national context and circumstances. This historic Agenda presents a new and ambitious framework for sustainable development that requires us to act urgently to reverse our current unsustainable global consumption and production patterns. We must, therefore, seek new ways of doing business and measuring wealth that are linked to guaranteeing the survival of humankind. In that regard, the Sustainable Development Goals must remain people-centred.

The overarching objective of the Sustainable Development Goals is not just to eradicate poverty; it is also about healing the declining health of our planet. Preserving life on Earth must be our shared responsibility, for prosperity cannot be pursued in a dead environment. The 17 time-bound Sustainable Development Goals must now become a highway for global partnerships and be matched with sufficient resources, if we are to meaningfully transform our peoples' lives.

As a small island developing State (SIDS), the Solomon Islands remains a special case in the area of sustainable development, given our vulnerability to climate change and our unique characteristics, which require special attention from the global community. We are committed to delivering on sustainable development nationally under the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway (resolution 69/15) and the Istanbul Programme of Action, which can enable SIDS and least-developed countries (LDCs) to leapfrog from development to sustainability.

The Solomon Islands will be reviewing its cooperation programmes to ensure that they are aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals in the context of our national priorities. We will incorporate the Goals into our 20-year, 2016-2036 national development strategy by the end of this year or in the first quarter of the next. We therefore call on all our development partners to support our efforts.

In the area of sustainable energy, the Solomon Islands is currently working on two hydro projects with the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank. Both projects remain on our post-2015 agenda. We are also seeking partnerships so that we can make progress on other hydro projects and also realize our potential in the area of geothermal and wind energy. Currently, 85 per cent of the population of Solomon Islands is not connected to the energy grid. We need partners to invest in large-scale, game-changing energy projects in our rural areas that can open up opportunities for our population and free up the one third of our national budget that is spent on importing fossil fuels.

With regard to agriculture, we call on our development partners to assist us in integrating our rural sector into the mainstream economy and in ensuring that it enjoy its fair share of the global market. Building a resilient economy for the Solomon Islands will require significant international cooperation with our efforts to construct an environmentally sound infrastructure in the areas of energy, transportation, communication, agriculture, tourism and information and technology.

The new 2030 Agenda, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda and the agreement on climate change that we hope to see concluded in Paris in December are intricately linked to sustainable development. On climate change, the science is clear; we are heading towards a global temperature increase of between 3°C and 3.5°C. That will leave the small island developing States and the LDCs behind, unless those with historical responsibility for causing the climate change do more and submit ambitious mitigation commitments under their intended, nationally determined contributions. In the lead-up to the twenty-first session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in Paris, I should remind us all once again of the Suva Declaration on Climate Change, issued by the Pacific Islands Developing Forum, which calls for stabilizing the increase in global temperatures at a level well below 1.5°C. The outcome agreement of the Paris Conference should be ambitious, comprehensive and legally binding, with agreements on loss and damage issues anchored in it as a stand-alone chapter.

Let me close with the words of the late Nelson Mandela, "Poverty is man-made and can be eradicated". To that I would add that climate change is also man-made and can be reversed.

We are here to make history. To that end we must provide honest and quality political leadership that secures and guarantees hope for our people and our planet. Let us go forward and urgently get on with the task of creating a better future for our children, their children, and generations to come.

Co-Chair Museveni: I thank the Prime Minister of Solomon Islands for his statement.

Mr. Manasseh Sogavare, Prime Minister of Solomon Islands, was escorted from the rostrum.

Co-Chair Musveni: The Assembly will now hear a statement by the President of the Government of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

Mr. Nikola Gruevski, President of the Government of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, was escorted to the rostrum.

Mr. Gruevski (Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia): We are gathered at this Summit to adopt a bold and universal agenda for ending poverty, improving the well-being of citizens and protecting our planet. I would like to pay tribute to all Member States and other relevant actors that have worked tirelessly on the outcome document that has now been adopted: "Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development" (resolution 70/1). The 17 Sustainable Development Goals and 169 targets will be our guiding light in crafting the future for our countries and citizens. The vision for a more stable, peaceful, prosperous, inclusive and environmentally sustainable world can be accomplished only if we join forces and work together in partnership at the global, regional, national and local levels.

The Central European Initiative, over which the Republic of Macedonia currently presides, seeks to be actively engaged in the implementation of the post-2015 development agenda, and its member States have expressed their readiness to make a concrete regional contribution, to transfer know-how and to exchange best practices in designing various sustainable development initiatives, in building the capacities of public institutions and in raising awareness.

The Republic of Macedonia contributes actively to those common goals. After the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development in Rio in 2012, we began to integrate the principles of sustainable development into our national policies. We established a National Council for Sustainable Development and adopted a national sustainable development strategy. In July, we conducted a review of our progress in implementing the strategy, the results of which have been communicated to the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs and the Division for Sustainable Development.

The next step will be to integrate the Sustainable Development Goals into our strategic documents, including our sustainable development action plan. We expect to receive support for that process under the new United Nations Development Assistance Framework 2016-2020, which is being developed in consultation with all relevant stakeholders. The Government consulted non-governmental organizations and took their views into account when we answered the United Nations questionnaire relating to the preparation of the Secretary General's initial input to the Open Working Group.

We have increased social transfers for socially vulnerable persons by over 50 per cent; special financial benefits have been introduced and even increased for the most vulnerable categories, especially for children without parental care, and we have exempted private-sector employers from payroll taxes for the employment of such persons for a period of five or more years. As a result of foreign investment and support for the private sector, unemployment in our country has been reduced by over 11 per cent. The concept of free health care for every citizen has been introduced. We are investing in medical equipment and infrastructure, and the prices of pharmaceuticals have been reduced. In addition, we are financing farmers through high budgetary subsidies.

With respect to young people, the education budget in recent years has been between 5 and 6 per cent of gross domestic product, which is on a par with the level of countries in the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development. In the area of primary education, we have implemented the Cambridge Primary Science and Mathematics Curricula. English language instruction starts in first grade, and a second foreign language begins in the sixth grade. We have provided a computer for every child in primary and secondary schools, as well as 80 modern laboratories for the development of scientific research. We offer full scholarships for each citizen who manages to enrol at one of the top 100 universities in the world.

For the employment of people under the age of 35, the State pays contributions for social insurance and personal income tax. In line with Sustainable Development Goal 5 on the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls, we are committed to eliminating all forms of violence against women and girls, especially to ending human trafficking, for which we have received the highest assessment from the international sources. We are improving the economic status of women through special programmes for the financing of women in the job market, the employment of single mothers, the extension of maternity leave and special protection for employed mothers and the promotion of the increased participation of women in political life, as well as measures to promote sexual and reproductive health.

Even taking into consideration that there should be a difference in the responsibilities of countries at different levels of development, as well as a fair distribution of the burden of sustainable development, especially in the area of climate change and pollution, each country should find its own strengths and bear a fair share of the burden for its own development. Let us deliver together what we jointly have committed to today for the future we want. The seventieth anniversary of the United Nations obligates us, even more, to perform better.

Co-Chair Museveni: I thank the President of the Government of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia for his statement.

Mr. Nikola Gruevski, President of the Government of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, was escorted from the rostrum.

Co-Chair Museveni: The Assembly will now hear a statement by the Prime Minister of Japan.

Mr. Shinzo Abe, Prime Minister of Japan, was escorted to the rostrum.

Mr. Abe (Japan) (*spoke in Japanese; English text provided by the delegation*): Our joint international efforts over the years to realize sustainable development have culminated in this historic adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The new Agenda contains five key elements known as the five Ps: people, planet, prosperity, peace and partnership, at its core. It also forges an ambitious plan of action in various fields including women, health, education, disaster risk reduction and quality growth. Based on those core components, which have all been emphasized by Japan, the new Agenda will lead our efforts in ultimately eradicating poverty from the earth and transforming the world into a sustainable planet by 2030.

Japan proposed international development goals as early as the 1990s and has consistently contributed to that endeavour. Japan therefore sincerely welcomes the adoption of the 2030 Agenda. I would like to express my respect for the efforts made by all those who worked so hard to bring the process forward. In order to implement this new, universal Agenda, we must overcome the traditional North-South dichotomy; we must work together to instead build a new global partnership where all stakeholders, including all countries, the private sector and civil society, join forces and play their respective roles. Such a partnership should also be one in which women, people with disabilities and the young proactively participate.

I would like to reiterate that Japan, as part of that partnership, will put forth its best possible effort, together with the international community, to implement the Agenda. For the past 60 years, Japan has continuously contributed to the stability and prosperity of the international community by providing official development assistance amounting to approximately $330 billion in total, and by accepting 560,000 trainees and dispatching 190,000 experts and volunteers. Building upon those achievements, Japan will promote the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. We will carry that effort forward by applying the Development Cooperation Charter of Japan as a compass, which was newly established this year as a foundation for Japan's development cooperation. In particular, we will do so based on the concept of human security, the guiding principle of the Charter of the United Nations that focuses on each and every individual.

In order to promote the Agenda, Japan will first pursue various initiatives to achieve quality growth, by which we specifically mean inclusive, sustainable and resilient growth for all, and thereby to end poverty. To achieve that aim, Japan will take a leading role in promoting quality infrastructure investment as a foundation for quality growth — not only in Asia, but across the world including in Africa. Additionally, using development cooperation as a catalyst, Japan will expand partnerships with the private sector in order to mobilize its financial resources and technologies. Furthermore, Japan will promote the development of industrial human resources as a key driving force to

achieve such growth, taking advantage of our country's high educational standards and advanced technology.

The second approach that Japan will emphasize is the protection and empowerment of people in vulnerable situations to ensure that no one is left behind. Since the health field is an essential component in that effort, Japan has announced a new global health policy aimed at strengthening health systems to better prepare the international community for public health emergencies such as the outbreak of the Ebola virus disease and to promote universal health coverage in every country. In education, Japan has established a new cooperation strategy, entitled "Learning Strategy for Peace and Growth", that is focused on enhancing learning quality and supporting human resource development in industry, science and technology. In the field of disaster risk reduction, Japan will take a leading role in implementing the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, adopted in March, and calls upon the international community to establish World Tsunami Day at the United Nations to raise global awareness of the risk of tsunamis.

Thirdly, Japan will further strengthen efforts to achieve sustainability in the environment and in society. On the issue of climate change, Japan will steadily implement assistance particularly to the most vulnerable countries and actively contribute to establishing a fair and effective international framework applicable to all parties at the upcoming session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. Moreover, Japan will share with the world our renowned knowledge and efforts on building a sound material-cycle society, including the concept of the three Rs: reduce, reuse and recycle.

Last but not least, the Japanese Government's pension investment fund, which operates a $1 trillion pension fund and is the largest such fund in the world, has just signed the United Nations Principles for Responsible Investment, thereby contributing to the achievement of sustainable development. In just three months we will enter into the first year of the global endeavour towards 2030. We must take action immediately to implement the new Agenda.

Let me conclude my statement by reiterating our determination to tackle the important challenge of achieving sustainable development by making the most of the upcoming opportunities next year, such as the World Humanitarian Summit, and the International Conference on African Development, the sixth such conference and the first to be held in Africa.

Co-Chair Museveni: I thank the Prime Minister of Japan for his statement.

Mr. Shinzo Abe, Prime Minister of Japan, was escorted from the rostrum.

Co-Chair Museveni: The Assembly will now hear a statement by the Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Thailand.

Mr. Prayut Chan-o-cha, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Thailand, was escorted to the rostrum.

Mr. Chan-o-cha (Thailand) (*spoke in Thai; English statement provided by the delegation*): I have come to this historic Summit to reaffirm that the Government and the people of Thailand stand with the global community in its resolve to realize the new 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda (resolution 70/1). We are pleased that the 2030 Agenda places people at its core, for people are the ultimate agents of change and play a role in sustainable development. Our actions today will determine the survival of future generations.

Today there is no longer any doubt that human activity has been the prime contributor to climate change, the greatest threat ever faced by humankind. Knowing all that we know now, we have a choice to make. We can continue on the path of rampant consumerism and maximum growth at all costs. Or we can choose to live sustainably, with a focus on quality, moderation and balance in our lives. We can choose to respect nature, rather than viewing it merely as a commodity to exploit. What I have just said derives from His Majesty the King's "sufficiency economy" philosophy. The philosophy, with its emphasis on reason, moderation and building resilience, has seen us through several crises, including the 1997 financial crisis and the 2004 tsunami. It also helped Thailand achieve nearly all of the Millennium Development Goals, and it is the basis for our 2015-2020 vision and the forthcoming national economic and social development plan.

Another pressing challenge of our time is inequality. It is the root cause of such problems as poverty, conflict over resources, and irregular migration, which can, in turn, spawn violence. To address inequality, we must first have effective laws. The Thai Government has passed a number of bills, for example, on protecting the homeless, promoting gender equality and providing equitable access to resources and public services. We

want to create a level playing field for all, to promote good governance, accountability and transparency in public administration, and to combat corruption and nepotism.

Secondly, the intrinsic worth of each and every human being must be recognized. The Thai Government is working to empower the vulnerable and the disenfranchised. Various measures have therefore been put in place, such as universal health coverage, a national retirement savings fund, an increased monthly allowance for the elderly and the disabled and a subsidy for babies newly born into poor families. We are also striving to strengthen the individual and the family, enhance community involvement and promote social cohesiveness.

Similar support is also provided to non-citizens. Last year, the Thai Government offered social and legal protection to unskilled migrant workers, and over 1.6 million migrants were registered and regularized for employment to protect them from human rights abuses and human trafficking.

Nevertheless, many people still need help. And to reach them, especially the most vulnerable groups, we must improve our statistics and disaggregated data to give them visibility and ensure that their needs are more precisely addressed. At the same time, the social recognition of such groups is also important, and we must build a society that is compassionate, respects humanity and embraces equality.

Thirdly, we need to create an environment that enables and sustains development. To lay strong socioeconomic foundations, the Thai Government has been empowering local communities through the establishment of village funds, including women's empowerment funds, across the country. The funds are used to assist local small and medium-sized enterprises and have been effective in helping to generate jobs and income for the rural masses. The Government is also helping farmers to settle their debts and promoting sustainable agriculture practices and agro-industry through local knowledge sharing and modern technology. While Thailand enjoys full employment, the Government has also been helping low-income people to find jobs through the so-called smart jobs centres.

Fourthly, we believe in reducing inequality, not only within countries but also among them, through development partnerships. We have been working to narrow the development gaps in mainland South-East Asia, starting with our neighbours, by promoting connectivity and setting up six special economic zones along our borders under what we call the Thailand Plus One initiative.

Only when individuals and communities are strong can our nations and the global community discover true strength. In the next 15 years, we should see unprecedented reductions in inequality and poverty. Thailand stands ready to work with all countries and the United Nations to that end for a stable, prosperous and sustainable world.

Co-Chair Museveni: I thank the Prime Minister of Thailand for his statement.

Mr. Prayut Chan-o-cha, Prime Minister of Thailand, was escorted from the rostrum.

Co-Chair Museveni: The Assembly will now hear a statement by the Prime Minister of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg.

Mr. Xavier Bettel, Prime Minister, Minister of State, Minister for Communications and the Media and Minister of Worship of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg, was escorted to the rostrum.

Mr. Bettel (Luxembourg) (*spoke in French*): Being universal, proactive and transparent have never been more imperative principles for the United Nations than today, when news accounts of bloody conflicts are mixed with the sombre warnings of environmental and climate-change disasters.

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (resolution 70/1) represents a singular leap forward. The time for reflection is past; now is the time for action. Our challenge is twofold: to ensure that the 17 new Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) continue the momentum of the Millennium Development Goals to eradicate poverty and hunger throughout the world and to permit us to focus joint development efforts on long-term sustainability. That is why we need to rigorously monitor the implementation of those Goals to be able to objectively measure progress in terms of what has been and what has yet to be achieved. United Nations leadership, supported by regional and national efforts, should guarantee the inclusive and interdisciplinary implementation of the Agenda.

Our global environment remains dependent on differing rhythms and speeds. Our resolve for the year

2030 may therefore appear distant to some, whereas it is, in fact, tomorrow. We must make no mistake, the 2030 Agenda is the responsibility of our generation, and future generations will judge us on our ability to act. The transformative power of the Agenda should introduce a new quality to the dialogue among nations. In that context, the updated universality inherent in the common Agenda cannot be realized without the view of shared responsibility and without the ongoing promotion of respect for all human rights and the principles of good governance. As never before, civil society has been urged to participate in the dialogue and the pursuit of the objectives declared in the 17 SDGs.

The old categories of North and South, of developed and developing countries, have become obsolete. Now dialogue among equals on topics that concern all of us will allow us to provide the foundation for a world more egalitarian and interdependent world. We must ensure that the competitive race does not lead to low standards today and to onerous and irreversible consequences tomorrow.

The protection of the environment, the fight against climate change and the integration of social criteria should not be perceived as a threat to industry or as a brake on economic development. Rather, those Goals can contribute to the development of clean technologies and help us to engage in greater diversification of our economies by promoting sustainable growth. Some companies on my continent have noted that other continents have less severe regulation of the environment, so they plan to leave our countries to set up elsewhere. While we often talk about tax and social dumping, we must also act to end such environmental dumping. The cafeteria lunch I had today was crucial, because everyone was committed to moving forward in the same direction. Moving forward in another direction makes no sense at all.

Secondly, we should not forget that the mere scope of the new SDGs compared to the earlier MDGs will require diversified and mutually complementary sources of funding. Official development assistance remains a crucial lever to provide additional capital. Luxembourg encourages all developed countries to invest 0.7 per cent of their gross national income in official development assistance. In that context, I would like to remind the Assembly that, for several years, our national contribution amount has been 1 per cent of our gross national income.

What we say today in this Hall should be the same thing we say in our countries at home. We must honour our international commitments to official development assistance, which must reach 0.7 per cent of the gross national income, and to international climate funding, which by 2020 is to reach $100 billion annually, as decided in Copenhagen in 2009. We must not resort to the notion that charity begins at home and the populist talk that claims we have enough problems to address at home in our countries, so why help other people If we look at ourselves in the mirror and if we are honest, we will admit that what we are complaining about in our home countries is trifling. We are incredibly successful, while in other parts of the world people do not know if they are going to be able to feed their children more than once a day. It is foolish to complain that the water is tepid — not hot or cold enough— when in other countries they are happy to have enough water to be able to survive. So we need to be reasonable. We must look in the mirror and realize that some of the problems we have in our countries are superficial and related to abundance.

Beyond ongoing programmatic efforts, the support of the private sector and its awareness-raising are key when working with public authorities to achieve the Goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The Goals should complement the picture so that there is no duplication or contradiction. Luxembourg is particularly committed to the respect and promotion of social rights. The 2030 Agenda should be able to guarantee decent working conditions for all. The third International Conference on Financing for Development drafted a number of important paths to follow, and the conclusions of that Conference will serve as an important basis for the implementation of our Agenda. The 2030 Agenda takes into account, not only the increased interconnectedness between different areas in an era of globalization but also the impact of this on the environment and climate. The environmental aspect of sustainability, the conservation of natural resources, the protection of biodiversity and ensuring food security — all such concerns are fundamental in ensuring prosperity and well-being for all.

We must unlock the engines of a "green economy", which for my country means that we do not use nuclear energy. We need to make our economies and our lifestyles more equitable, more sustainable and more effective in eradicating poverty. We are not going to resolve the crisis of poverty and migration without

addresssing the challenges posed by climate change and the environment. We will not overcome major crises — migration, wars and hunger — unless we restore dignity to men and women, while respecting the Earth which feeds us.

For a long time now, Luxembourg has focused on a development policy that promotes long-term sustainable results. Inclusiveness is the inevitable corollary of that approach, based on objective analyses, listening to various stakeholders and monitoring that includes the participation of all stakeholders. That is also the best path to follow to ensure the success of the 2030 Agenda and to bring about a truly united world, and one in which humankind is sensitive to the need for integrated harmonious development and eager to preserve our planet and to improve the daily life and dignity for all of us.

Co-Chair Rasmussen: I thank the Prime Minister, Minister of State, Minister for Communications and the Media and Minister of Worship of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg, for his statement.

Mr. Xavier Bettel, Prime Minister, Minister of State, Minister for Communications and the Media and Minister of Worship of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg, was escorted from the rostrum.

Co-Chair Rasmussen: The Assembly will now hear a statement by the Prime Minister, First Lord of the Treasury and Minister for the Civil Service of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

The Right Honourable David Cameron, Prime Minister, First Lord of the Treasury and Minister for the Civil Service of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, was escorted to the rostrum

Mr. Cameron (United Kingdom): We meet at an important moment. Today, we celebrate the huge progress that the world has made towards the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and we commit to going even further through the new Sustainable Development Goals. Since the MDGs were adopted in the year 2000 (resolution 55/2), we have made huge strides forward. The proportion of people living in extreme poverty has fallen significantly. Malaria deaths have fallen by 60 per cent since 2000, saving more than 6 million lives. And 43 million fewer children are out of school. I am proud to lead a country that has made a huge contribution to that extraordinary progress.

The United Kingdom's open markets, trade and investment have helped to spur global growth. Our scientists have developed new technologies for the world's poorest. And, crucially, we have kept our promises on aid. We have not just achieved the 0.7 per cent target of the United Nations; we have enshrined it in the law of our land. That investment is helping the world's poorest and most vulnerable people to lead a better life. Children have been vaccinated who otherwise would have died. Refugees have been fed and clothed who otherwise would have starved. Countries were accorded a chance of stability and security that otherwise could have fallen apart. Aid is not enough on its own. Of course not. But it is essential. And it works.

Today, therefore, I call on others to follow Britain's lead. I say to my fellow world leaders from developed countries: we have been making those aid promises for years. Now, let us all deliver on them. The world is watching. And now, as we adopt these new Goals, let us inspire the world with what we want to achieve: to reduce preventable deaths to zero, to eliminate illiteracy and malnutrition and to eradicate extreme poverty within a generation. That is a clarion call to the whole world.

To eliminate the scourge of extreme poverty for the first time in human history is something that has been dreamed of for centuries, something that many thought would never happen, but something that is now within our grasp. I am delighted that ending extreme poverty forever is at the heart of the new Goals. It is something that I pushed hard for. And I am delighted that we have recognized that to end extreme poverty, we need to put the poorest, the weakest and the most marginalized first — to leave no one behind.

But today, together, we commit to going even further. There can be no attack on poverty without an assault on climate change. We therefore commit to making progress in a way that is sustainable and protects our one and only planet for the long term, and treasures and conserves our natural resources for future generations. That is the only way to eliminate extreme poverty forever and to prevent all our progress from being undone by environmental degradation or dangerous climate change.

And there can be no attack on poverty without ending gender inequality. Today, therefore, we commit to a world where women and girls are treated equally with men and boys. And, crucially, we commit to

tackling all the causes of poverty. Let us be frank, especially here, about what keeps so many stuck in poverty: corruption, rotten government, no access to justice, no property rights, no rule of law. Today, for the first time, every country in the world is committing to tackling corruption, to promoting the rule of law and access to justice, to reducing illicit financial flows and to strengthening the return of stolen assets.

We are committing to building accountable and transparent institutions and representative decision-making to ensure that everyone has a legal identity and access to information. We are saying that we must protect basic freedoms. For a long time, those issues were off the global development agenda. Now they are right at the top of it, and everyone has signed up. That was one of the key recommendations of the High-level Panel of Eminent Persons on the Post-2015 Development Agenda, which I co-chaired along with the Presidents of Liberia and Indonesia, in its report entitled "A new global partnership: eradicate poverty and transform economies through sustainable development". I am delighted that it is being adopted here today. Achieving these Goals will take actions, not words. In addition to aid, we need investment, trade, growth and jobs. I therefore urge companies around the world to invest in developing products for the poorest and in new forms of clean energy. And I urge Governments to smash down the unfair barriers that prevent our people from trading freely, starting at the meeting of the World Trade Organization later this year.

And let us go even further. We need a new global partnership to ensure that all our policies — on things like tax, trade and transparency — really help to deliver progress for the poorest. The United Kingdom will lead the way internationally, just as we did leading this Agenda with our 2013 presidency of the Group of Eight.

That is why I have agreed to host a major anti-corruption summit next year, to drive further action. I therefore assure leaders in Government, business and communities around the world that, if they are committed to making progress towards those global goals, the United Kingdom is on their side and will work with them on our shared quest.

Co-Chair Rasmussen: I thank the Prime Minister, First Lord of the Treasury and Minister for the Civil Service of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland for his statement.

Mr. David Cameron, Prime Minister, First Lord of the Treasury and Minister for the Civil Service of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, was escorted from the rostrum.

Co-Chair Rasmussen: The Assembly will now hear a statement by the Prime Minister, Minister of Defence and Home Affairs, Minister of Rodrigues and National Development Unit of the Republic of Mauritius.

Sir Anerood Jugnauth, Prime Minister, Minister of Defence and Home Affairs, Minister of Rodrigues and National Development Unit of the Republic of Mauritius, was escorted to the rostrum.

Sir Anerood Jugnauth (Mauritius): I am pleased and honoured to participate in this crucial Summit. It marks the culmination of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) era and the transition to the new period of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

For the past 15 years, the MDGs have remained a focus for global policy debates and national policy planning in many developing countries, including my own. There is a broad consensus that they have played an important part in securing substantial progress in fighting poverty. We all agree that a globally endorsed agenda for fighting poverty should continue beyond 2015. In a world already undergoing dramatic shifts, including climate change and other serious environmental ills, there is widespread understanding that global environmental objectives need a greater international emphasis and commitment, alongside those concerned with poverty reduction. The focus is now on building a sustainable world where environmental sustainability, social inclusion and economic development are equally valued.

Mauritius has by and large met the MDGs, especially in the areas of education, gender equality and poverty reduction. We are, however, faced with some emerging concerns and priorities related to the widening of the income gap, unemployment that results from a skills mismatch, demographic challenges and environmental and climate-change issues that can affect the achievement of both the MDGs and the new SDGs.

Mauritius is comforted that the new global development agenda, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (resolution 70/1), espouses its own sustainable development agenda, one that I laid out

at the national level in my Vision 2030 economic mission statement on 22 August. This shared Agenda emphasizes poverty eradication and social inclusiveness as indispensable to sustainable development. It is dedicated to offering a life of dignity to all, through the provision of nutritious food, safe drinking water, good sanitation, affordable and reliable energy, health care, housing, productive employment and decent jobs, quality education, conflict prevention and the rule of law and good governance.

The Agenda is people-centred and guarantees rights, justice, freedoms and access to information. It promotes and supports sustainable oceans, forests, agriculture and land ecosystems and a sustainable climate on Earth. I am here today not only to endorse our new global development Agenda but also to affirm my country's strong political commitment to its timely implementation.

Since climate-related concerns represent real threats to life on our planet, Mauritius looks forward to the adoption of a binding agreement on climate change at the twenty-first session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, to be held in Paris in December. My Government is fully committed to effectively monitoring climate variability and change as well as addressing the problems related to rises in sea levels in coastal regions.

We particularly welcome the inclusion in the 2030 Agenda of a stand-alone goal on the oceans. It is a cause that we have championed in international negotiations. The conservation and sustainable use of the world's oceans, including the high seas, is very important to the well-being of humankind. Mauritius plans to develop its ocean economy as one of the pillars of its sustainable development path. Given the vital role of the oceans, reducing water pollution and protecting marine ecosystem services and biodiversity are imperative.

As a small developing island, we believe it is urgent that the global community take into account the specific vulnerabilities and challenges of small island developing States (SIDS). We must address the supply-side constraints on SIDS in order to ensure their integration into the global trading system, and we must adopt a pragmatic approach with regard to the question of special treatment in the areas of financial access to climate funds and technical assistance for SIDS, as well as trade. We firmly believe that SIDS should be granted special international recognition within the United Nations system.

Achieving a comprehensive post-2015 development agenda will above all require a comprehensive framework for its financing, among other means of implementation. It is clear that the current financing and investment patterns will not deliver on the Goals. To achieve the SDGs, it is important that we increase and rationalize overseas development assistance and financial flows, as well as mobilizing new and additional resources for developing countries, including SIDS, from multiple sources. The Addis Ababa Action Agenda, adopted at the third International Conference on Financing for Development, has laid the foundation for strong support to the realization of the SDGs. Its inclusion in the means of implementation provides concrete deliverables that set the tone for the process. And we particularly welcome the annual high-level meeting of the Economic and Social Council on financing for development, aimed at reviewing the outcomes of the Conference and the means of implementation for the post-2015 agenda.

We also note with satisfaction the convening by the Secretary-General of an inter-agency task force to report on progress on both financing for development and the SDGs. Mauritius greatly appreciates the establishment of a technology facilitation mechanism, designed to identify technology needs and gaps and facilitate the dissemination and transfer of technology relevant to the SDGs. That is crucial for my country, since the next phase of our socioeconomic development will be driven by technology and innovation.

The achievement of the SDGs will require close collaboration between Governments, the private sector and civil society. The contribution of international organizations and multinational companies, with their worldwide reach, cutting-edge technologies and massive capacity to reach large-scale solutions, is essential to success. The SDGs will require an unprecedented mobilization of global knowledge operating across many sectors and regions.

My Government is fully committed to implementing the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda, and we urge the international community to support developing countries so that they can deliver. It is with great hope and expectations that Mauritius endorses the document.

Co-Chair Rasmussen: I thank the Prime Minister, Minister of Defence and Home Affairs, Minister of

Rodrigues and National Development Unit of the Republic of Mauritius for his statement.

Sir Anerood Jugnauth, Prime Minister, Minister of Defence and Home Affairs, Minister of Rodrigues and National Development Unit of the Republic of Mauritius, was escorted from the rostrum.

Co-Chair Rasmussen: The Assembly will now hear a statement by the Prime Minister of the Republic of Turkey.

Mr. Ahmet Davutoğlu, Prime Minister of the Republic of Turkey, was escorted to the rostrum.

Mr. Davutoğlu (Turkey): We have gathered to celebrate a historic event, as we adopt an ambitious and universal sustainable development agenda. Together, we are making a pledge to transform the world for the better in the next decade and a half. Humankind faces complex and interlinked challenges. Continuing poverty, ever-deepening inequalities, climate change and other forms of environmental degradation, global health threats, spiralling conflict, violent extremism, terrorism and the consequent humanitarian crises — including the displacement of unprecedented numbers of people seeking refuge — threaten our well-being and our planet's future. On the eve of the new millennium, we agreed on the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Since the adoption of the MDGs, significant progress has been made to reach those Goals. Unfortunately, progress has been uneven among and within countries, and some of the Goals still remain off-track.

That is why we must all commit, without reservation, to the new Global Agenda that we are proclaiming today (resolution 70/1). It is particularly important that the 2030 Agenda build upon the achievements of the MDGs and address the unfinished business. Turkey strongly supports the emphasis on providing scaled-up assistance to the least developed countries and other most vulnerable countries. That will help to fulfil our pledge of leaving no one behind.

Crucially, the 2030 Agenda recognizes what we have been witnessing for years: sustainable development cannot be realized without peace and security, and peace and security will be at risk without sustainable development. The humanitarian crisis in the Middle East is a case in point, for it is a humanitarian tragedy caused by oppression, as well as lack of security and stability. We are hosting more than 2 million Syrians in Turkey, 960,000 of whom are children. For those interested in the facts, 66,000 Syrian babies have been born in camps in Turkey. Our country has spent almost 8 billion dollars for the refugees in camps, with a very modest contribution from the international community.

We cannot reach our Sustainable Development Goals without first addressing complex humanitarian emergencies. That is why a greater emphasis on the humanitarian-development nexus is strongly needed. And that is why Turkish humanitarian diplomacy combines humanitarian and development assistance programmes within a collective strategy, with an eye to the countries in sub-Saharan Africa, in particular. The World Humanitarian Summit will be held in Istanbul on 23 and 24 May 2016 and will provide an excellent opportunity to assess the degree of coherence between financing for humanitarian assistance and financing for development assistance.

Turkey will also host the eighth meeting of the Global Forum on Migration and Development in October this year. There we will discuss the implementation of the migration-related targets and indicators included in the Sustainable Development Goals. The new Agenda supports the implementation of the relevant programmes of action, including the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries. As the co-Chair of the Group of Friends of Least Developed Countries, Turkey will continue its strong support to the least developed countries.

We will host the mid-term review meeting of the Istanbul Programme of Action in June of 2016. We count on the support of United Nations Member States for the success of this meeting. Turkey has also offered to host the proposed Technology Bank for Least Developed Countries and the science, technology and innovation supporting mechanism dedicated to those countries. We are looking forward to the report of the High-level Panel of Experts, which will advise on organizational and operational aspects of the proposed Technology Bank.

The real measure of our success with respect to the new and ambitious Development Agenda will be the concrete steps we take in the implementation phase. That is why there must be a paradigm shift, in order to unlock the resources needed to finance the Sustainable Development Goals. The 2030 Agenda provides some of the answers to that question, by incorporating certain necessary means of implementation. Those means are complemented by the Addis Ababa Action

Agenda, which was adopted at the Third Conference on Financing for Development. The outcome of the twenty-first session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, to be held in Paris in December, will add another link to the chain. Those three outcome documents will establish the framework of the Global Development Agenda for the next 15 years.

Combating climate change and achieving sustainable development are closely linked. We, in Turkey, will integrate the Sustainable Development Goals and targets into our national development plans.

With respect to the Group of 20 (G-20), Turkey has placed development at the centre of its G-20 presidency agenda for 2015. Promoting the integration of low-income developing countries into the world economy is one of its top G-20 presidency priorities. We have worked very hard to ensure close alignment between the G-20 agenda and global sustainable development efforts to end poverty, hunger and inequality and to promote infrastructure investments, food security, access to energy, youth employment, gender equality and inclusive economic growth, while protecting the planet. The G-20 is working to assist low-income developing countries.

Official development assistance (ODA) remains key to supporting development efforts in many countries, particularly the least developed countries. As an emerging donor, Turkey has expanded the geographical scope of its development cooperation and steadily increased the amount of its ODA in recent years, which has increased from $967 million in 2010 to $3.5 billion in 2014. That amount corresponds to 0.45 per cent of our gross national income, and we are committed to further increasing our contributions. Yet, enhanced cooperation between the public and the private sector to support sustainable development is also critical. That is why the Turkish G-20 presidency has made the role of the private sector in development — with a focus on inclusive business — part of the G-20 development agenda. We will continue to encourage efforts in that direction. At the G-20 Summit that Turkey will host in Antalya this November, G-20 leaders will discuss in detail the Group's contribution to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

Actions speak louder than words. We, the leaders of nations from across the world, have come together to adopt the 2030 Agenda in this august setting. It is a very important step that lifts humankind's hopes for a better future, one in which no one is left behind. Today, we are making a pledge to future generations, and it is only by working together that we can honour that pledge. We, in Turkey, are resolved to make our contribution and to fulfil our commitment.

Co-Chair Rasmussen: I thank the Prime Minister of the Republic of Turkey for his statement.

Mr. Ahmet Davutoğlu, Prime Minister of the Republic of Turkey, was escorted from the rostrum.

Co-Chair Rasmussen: At this point, I should like to inform delegations that we will now hear brief presentations by the co-Chairs of the interactive dialogues.

I now give the floor to the co-Chair of interactive dialogue I, His Excellency Mr. Miro Cerar, Prime Minister of the Republic of Slovenia.

Mr. Cerar (co-Chair of interactive dialogue I): I have the honour to present, on behalf of Mr. Ralph E. Gonsalves, Prime Minister of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, and myself, the summary of deliberations from interactive dialogue I, on ending poverty and hunger.

We noted that ending poverty is a matter of human dignity. The Millennium Development Goals were an important catalyst for the significant progress made in reducing poverty and hunger globally. However, that progress has been deeply uneven. Too many are still poor and undernourished, and poverty persists in every country. Eradicating poverty and hunger and leaving no one behind will require a multidimensional perspective that addresses their social, economic and environmental drivers. We must also tackle inequality and systemic and structural issues. Ending poverty and hunger can be achieved only by addressing interconnected factors such as inclusive growth, livelihoods and employment, access to basic infrastructure and services, food security, nutrition, health care, education, greater equality, improved agricultural productivity and the sustainable use of natural resources. We also highlight the important role of social protection schemes.

Economic growth is necessary but not sufficient if we are to accelerate the reduction of poverty and hunger. Future prosperity will also require that economic growth no longer degrades the environment. Climate change must be halted. We emphasize the importance of national ownership and political commitment,

citizen engagement, effective fiscal policies, an integrated and coherent approach to policymaking, adequate resources, the monitoring of progress, and accountability and transparency. We also need increased participation in global decision-making by developing countries. There is a need for financing and investment from a range of actors, including national and regional development banks, the private sector and other institutional investors, such as pension funds and insurance companies. It is also important to raise additional resources through, for example, improved national tax systems and innovative financing sources.

Investing in the health and education of women and girls is crucial. Employment and inclusion for young people should receive priority attention. Marginalized groups should be included in decision-making processes. Peaceful and just societies are a necessary precondition for sustainable development. Many conflicts are driven by poverty, hunger and hopelessness. We noted that reversals in development gains could be avoided by building resilience to shocks and disasters and will require appropriate risk-management plans and strategies, together with strong social-protection frameworks. Lastly, we stressed the importance of strengthening the global partnership for development at both the national and international levels.

Co-Chair Museveni: I now give the floor to the co-Chair of interactive dialogue II, Her Excellency Ms. Kolinda Grabar-Kitarović, President of the Republic of Croatia.

President Grabar-Kitarović (co-Chair of interactive dialogue II): On behalf of President Uhuru Kenyatta of Kenya and myself, I have the honour to present the summary of deliberations from interactive dialogue II, on tackling inequalities, empowering women and girls and leaving no one behind.

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (resolution 70/1) calls unprecedented attention to the need to reduce inequalities both within and among nations. Only by doing so can we build a world that is more just, stable and peaceful. We agreed that translating the Agenda's Goals and targets into national policies and programmes is a commitment that will mobilize us all for the next 15 years.

The 2030 Agenda is ambitious. It encompasses all human rights and aims to eliminate all forms of discrimination. We recognized that the Goals cannot be achieved unless progress includes everyone, especially women, who make up half of the world's population. Addressing gender equality is key and will have a multiplier effect in achieving all the Goals. While acknowledging the significant progress that has been made in advancing gender equality, our discussions highlighted some of the areas that will need further action.

First, universal access to quality education for girls must be reached through every means possible in the given time frame. Secondly, women must be given equal opportunities in the economic sphere, including at the workplace. Thirdly, we must ensure greater representation of women in political positions and leadership. Fourthly, violence against women must be eliminated and investments made in sexual and reproductive health.

We agreed that tackling inequalities requires not just changes in policies and laws but also strengthened capacities and empowerment at the community level. The most marginalized, including rural, indigenous, disabled and older people, must have equal opportunities and access to resources, and they must also be given a voice. A sustainable world should give every person a fair chance. The humanitarian crisis that the world is facing today, and particularly the situation of migrants and refugees, reminds us that we must prioritize the needs of the most vulnerable. We are all accountable for ensuring that the 2030 Agenda is taken forward. We need the right data, new technologies and broad partnerships. Above all, we need sustained political will if we are to reach our common objective of ensuring dignity and equal opportunities for all.

Co-Chair Rasmussen: I now give the floor to the co-Chair of interactive dialogue III, His Excellency Mr. Charles Michel, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Belgium.

Mr. Michel (co-Chair of interactive dialogue III) (*spoke in French*): On behalf of Sheikh Hasina, Prime Minister of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, and myself, I have the honour to present the summary of deliberations from interactive dialogue III, on fostering viable economic growth and structural transformation and promoting sustainable modes of consumption and production.

Our discussions affirmed that prosperity has increased and many people have emerged from poverty. However, a great deal remains to be done, particularly for the world's most vulnerable. Continuing to reduce

the scourge of poverty, tackling the structural causes of inequalities, increasing access to justice and respecting human rights are still major priorities. We also highlighted the fact that balanced, viable economic growth is essential to reducing poverty and ensuring sustainable development. We will have to pursue those goals despite the numerous current and future challenges facing the world.

We also recognize that growth without creating jobs, increased inequality of wealth, and unemployment among young people are concerns all over the world. Promoting decent jobs, workers' rights and developing social protections that include a minimum threshold would seem to be the keys to just and more inclusive societies. In order for our economies to be inclusive, we should also aim at achieving equality between women and men. Investing in women's health and education, eliminating sexual violence and promoting entrepreneurship for women are essential to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

Structural and technological reforms to our economies are necessary to develop a system of international commerce in which exchanges are more technologically intensive and have greater value added and more productivity, and where there is full integration for everybody. Connectivity and access to the Internet, as well as the strengthening of institutions, are also keys to accelerate this transformation. Strengthening regional and international trade appears essential for sustainable development. Access to markets and to technology is fundamental for integration into the global economy. We must invest more, particularly in Africa, in such sectors as renewable energy, infrastructure and transport and agriculture. We also believe that domestic and foreign investment must be stimulated. In that regard, new partnerships between the private and public sectors should be better defined.

Finally, we must uncouple economic growth, on the one hand, and degradation of the environment, on the other, and combat climate change so that we can better protect future generations. We must accelerate a real transition to sustainable lifestyles, which requires that we change our consumption patterns and make better use of our precious resources.

In conclusion, I would like to thank the two Co-Chairs of this historic Summit. I would also like to thank Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, who during the entire process has been a driving force and a great inspiration to us all. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (resolution 70/1) is now adopted. We need to get down to work.

Co-Chair Museveni: I now give the floor to the co-Chair of interactive dialogue V, Her Excellency Ms. Michelle Bachelet Jeria, President of the Republic of Chile.

President Bachelet Jeria (co-Chair of interactive dialogue V): On behalf of Her Excellency Ms. Park Geun-hye, President of the Republic of Korea, and myself, I have the honour to present the summary of deliberations from interactive dialogue V, on "Building effective, accountable and inclusive institutions to achieve sustainable development".

There was a strong sentiment during the dialogue that effective, accountable and inclusive institutions that are transparent and free of corruption are essential prerequisites for our common vision for sustainable development. While Goal 16 is important in its own right, it facilitates and accelerates the success of all the other Goals.

We agreed that the increased involvement of citizens is needed in order to create full ownership of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (resolution 70/1). That can be achieved only through high-quality education, non-discrimination, gender equality and access to justice and information, as well as reliable and timely data, and it must include the most vulnerable and marginalized groups. It should uphold the highest standards of human rights and freedoms. The full engagement of citizens will also help to build a bridge between the poor and the rich, men and women, urban and rural constituencies and provide an enabling environment for all people. That will be essential in promoting integrity and building trust between Governments and citizens.

We acknowledge that strong institutions based on the rule of law are essential for building peaceful societies where people live free from fear and want. A culture of justice needs to be created and upheld to empower all people, including the most marginalized. A precondition for the implementation of Goal 16 and all other Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) is the breaking down of silos through building partnership across sectors and among all stakeholders.

We concur that the SDGs must be integrated into national plans and strategies, supported by sound

monitoring and review frameworks. The important role of Parliaments and local authorities needs to be recognized and enhanced. Partnerships and a stable environment provided through strong institutions are necessary for vibrant private-sector engagement and domestic and international resource mobilization. Full gender equality needs to be achieved and women's potential must be unlocked.

Young people are the prime beneficiaries of peaceful States and societies. Children and youth living in conflict are often the most immediate victims of violence and displacement. We owe it to them to create a peaceful, just and prosperous world.

Co-Chair Rasmussen: I now give the floor to His Excellency Mr. Abdoulaye Balde, Minister of Environment and Sustainable Development of the Republic of Senegal and representative of the co-Chair of interactive dialogue VI.

Mr. Balde (co-Chair of interactive dialogue VI) (*spoke in French*): On behalf of Mr. Macky Sall, President of the Republic of Senegal, and of Mr. Ahmet Davutoğlu, Prime Minister of the Republic of Turkey, I have the honour to present the summary of interactive dialogue VI, entitled "Delivering on a revitalized global partnership".

The discussions on the topic of partnership took place in a friendly environment, with relevant recommendations regarding the following convergent points.

In noting that reaching the Sustainable Development Goals will depend on a revitalized global partnership, we agreed that it should be universal and relevant for all, while meeting the needs of the most vulnerable and in leaving no one behind. All the stakeholders must be committed, and the needs of present and future generations taken into account. We emphasized the need to mobilize financial resources — public and private, national and international — and technologies, as well as the need to strengthen capacity-building for sustainable development.

Official development assistance (ODA) remains critical, in particular for the poorest and most vulnerable countries. A major role will be played by the mobilization of national resources, the strengthening of international cooperation in fiscal matters and combating illicit financial flows, as well as by viable policies, private investment and effective partnerships. We called for immediate compliance with our commitments regarding ODA and in other areas. We also emphasized the importance of development cooperation that will be effective, predictable, country-specific and results-based.

We agreed that consistent policies with regard to financing, trade, debt and technology were necessary for sustainable development. We emphasized the importance of good governance and the rule of law, of a healthy environment and the fight against corruption, as well as independence for women and girls, without forgetting young people.

Mindful that we have to adapt the global objectives to the local level, we emphasized the need to take them into account in concrete national development plans, elaborated after open consultations with civil society, in order to guide national policies and international cooperation for development. The capacities of local stakeholders must be strengthened, and access to financial services broadened.

We also highlighted the contributions of regional institutions, which are a framework for exchanging experiences and know-how. We agreed on the need to establish innovate partnerships among Governments, business and civil society so as to benefit from all resources and skills available. We recognized that public policy and public finance can contribute to the mobilization of private investment favouring the Sustainable Development Goals. We also stressed the importance of accessible and transparent data to ensure the follow-up of progress, the assessment of policies and the accountability of all stakeholders. We emphasized the need to adopt innovative, effective and inclusive approaches for follow-up and evaluation. We must mobilize all stakeholders and create a space which is conducive to the participation of civil society, while encouraging mutual learning in our common activities in implementing the Sustainable Development Goals.

That is a summary of the main ideas that we thought we should present as conclusions or recommendations from our work.

Co-Chair Rasmussen: We will now move to the last brief presentation of the interactive dialogues. I would like to take the opportunity to thank all the co-Chairs for their great work.

I give the floor to the co-Chair of interactive dialogue IV, His Excellency Mr. Ollanta Humala Tasso, President of the Republic of Peru.

President Humala Tasso (co-Chair of interactive dialogue IV) (*spoke in Spanish*): On behalf of His Excellency Mr. François Hollande, President of the French Republic, and on my own behalf, I have the honour to present a summary of deliberations that took place during interactive dialogue IV, entitled "Protecting our planet and combating climate change".

Climate change is one of our major challenges. The negative impacts of climate change are challenging development and the possibilities of progress in all areas of our economies and societies. In order to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, we must ensure a high level of consistency between the responses to climate change and the eradication of poverty. We need integrated actions for the sustainable use of natural resources and the management of the biodiversity of our forests, land, mountains, oceans and seas. Only in that way will we be able to respond to the growing demand for food, water and energy. It is essential to ensure that women, indigenous peoples and other vulnerable groups have equitable access to land, forests and fisheries, among other things.

It is essential to ensure that we be able to limit the increase of the temperature to between 1.5°C and 2°C. The only way to limit the increase in temperature is through decarbonizing the economy. That must be a priority in those countries with the highest emissions of greenhouse gasses. Transition towards renewable energy sources is particularly important for improving efficiency in the way we use energy and natural resources.

We heard very clearly the magnitude of vulnerability to which developing countries are exposed — countries such as Peru, but primarily the small island developing States and the least developed countries. The losses incurred because of the increase in the frequency and violence of natural disasters have high costs for our populations and the economies of our countries. Adapting to climate change requires a greater international effort in the form of financial resources, the transfer of sustainable and clean technologies, and capacity-building. Greater international cooperation must be geared primarily towards the least developed countries and small island developing States. We must strengthen the contributions of all stakeholders, specifically the private sector, at all levels — the global, regional and national — and, as far as possible, establish a carbon price to guide investment decisions towards low-carbon economies.

Several countries reported that they had ambitious national plans to reduce greenhouse-gas emissions and to mitigate the impact of climate change. The presentation of those plans by all countries before the Paris Conference will be a good sign for the negotiations that we will conclude in the twenty-first session of the Conference of the Parties (COP21) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, in December in Paris. We have high expectations for the outcome of COP21. We were able to conclude that the general will is to reach a global, ambitious and legally binding agreement, with the goal of limiting the temperature increase to between 1.5°C and 2°C. That will be the acid test of our collective commitment as nations and societies towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

I believe that today humankind has before it an opportunity to build the biggest and most powerful partnership in the planet's history in the fight against climate change and rising temperatures.

The meeting rose at 6.15 p.m.